Make Room

Seventh-day Adventist Church Gold Coast Central

Easter Devotional 2026 - Preparing our hearts for the cross and the hope of Jesus

Easter Devotional 2026

Whether you live with a busy household, one other person, or on your own - this journey is for you. We are walking with Jesus together as one church family this week.

This week we pause. In the middle of busy schedules, full calendars and constant noise, we choose to slow down and make room - room in our hearts, our homes and our lives for Jesus.

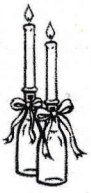
As a church family, we will walk together through the final days of Jesus' life. From his welcome into Jerusalem, to the cross, the quiet tomb, and the hope of resurrection.

Throughout the week, we invite you to:

- Spend time each day with God through devotionals
- Fast from something that normally fills your time or attention
- Replace that space with prayer and connection with Jesus.

This journey is not meant to be done alone. Whether you live with a family, share a home, or are on your own - we are walking through this week together as one church.

The week will end with a special Agape feast on Friday night to bring in the Sabbath and share our stories from the week.



Week long idea: Light a candle during devotional times each day to symbolise that Jesus is with you.

Fasting & Prayer

Answer honestly to help set up your week of fasting and praying. Choose something meaningful, realistic and wise for your life/season to fast from.

Why?

What is the purpose for your fast?
What is a deeper spiritual need that you have?

Examples

- To pray for our church
- To pray about a personal situation
- to listen more closely to God about a decision
- To deepen my trust in God so that I have less fear about _____
- To help reshape priorities

How?

What will you do instead of _____ to help you fill your purpose for fasting?
How will this fast intentionally create space for God?

Examples

- Instead of snacking, I will pray about _____
- Instead of scrolling social media, I will sit quietly with God
- Instead of watching tv, I will read _____and journal what I am learning

What?

What will you give up?
What would prevent you from having more time with God this week?

Examples

- Particular foods/drinks
- Tv, movies, entertainment, games etc...
- Shopping, social media, news, online browsing
- Overscheduling social commitments
- Background noise: Tv, Music, Podcasts etc.
- Negative self talk/complaining

Each day this week: Fast intentionally, pray honestly, stay close to Jesus. Whenever you feel the absence of what you're fasting from, whisper a short prayer: *"Jesus, be enough for me today"*

Devotional

Making Room

Written by Caroline Andrews

Sunday
29 March, 2026
Welcome Jesus

"...but you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life."
Jude 1:20, 21

Everything takes time. And anything of value takes more time. Probably more time than you want to invest, and definitely more time than what you have! Not only do we battle with our own inclination to take an easy path in life, but we often have to juggle intrusions in our day that firstly we need to assess - how important is this? An alarm - a text message - an email - a knock at the door - a thud followed by a cry for help - the unexpected things of life are numerous. Some are important and can't be delayed, while others carry an illusion of importance.

Creating space for God can seem, at times, like just one more thing on a long list of important things. But the reality is that it is the most important thing. Seeking Jesus isn't a luxury, neither is it frivolous. It's life or death in ways that are hard to grasp. It is an investment of time that Jesus referred to as building one's "house" on a rock.

Today, in this moment, the Lord invites you to respond to His call: Take time with Me so I can re-create you in My image. This invitation does not come as a loud intrusion, but rather the still, small voice of Holy Spirit conviction.

This short devotional will end but Jesus will stay with you, and the words of truth remain as an invitation: Will you make room for Me now? Repent of the things that lead you out into 'sandy territory' and result in your building something that won't last, things that have nothing life giving in them. Forgive those who have wronged you. These things may seem impossible, but the more time you spend with Me, the easier it will be.

"Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen."
Jude 1:24, 25 ESV.

Interactive activity

Doorway Prayer

Sunday
29 March, 2026
Welcome Jesus

Theme: Making space for Jesus.

If you're with others:

- Stand at your front door together. Open it and pray:

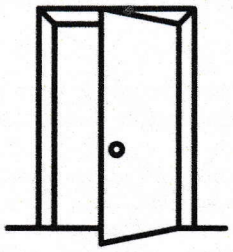
"Jesus, You are welcome in this home and in our lives this week"

If you're on your own:

- Sit somewhere quiet. Open your hands on your lap and pray slowly *"Jesus, I welcome You into every part of my life this week"*

Optional:

- Write on paper: "Jesus, you are welcome in..." and finish the sentence. For example, *my attitude, my phone use, my friendships, my home.*
- Stick these on a wall or fridge as a daily prayer.



Devotional

Declutter Your Room

Written by Caroline Andrews

Monday
30 March, 2026
Clear the temple

"Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God."
2 Cor 7:1 ESV.

On occasions where I have paid an unexpected visit to someone's place, I've often heard a comment such as this: "You'll have to forgive the mess, sorry!" I always respond by saying (as lightheartedly as possible), "That's OK, I don't do house inspections." My intention with that reply is to diffuse any embarrassment.

The truth is though that often their response reflects shame or guilt about their performance, and possibly also fear of how they are perceived. These three great internal tyrants - shame, guilt & fear - often drive us to sin in ways that the Apostle John summarised as follows: the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life.

As Jesus entered His time of ministry after being baptised, the first challenge He faced after nearly six weeks of prayer & fasting were those three things. At a time of physical and mental weakness, He overcame temptations that encompass what we struggle with. And not when He had His Father's audible approval fresh in His mind.

"Your Word have I hid in My heart that I might not sin against You." Psalm 119:11. In essence, Jesus' experience of a pure life was a reflection of a mind, "a heart" where there was no room for the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life. The 'house' of His mind was filled with the Holy Spirit, and the written Word of scripture was integral to that. He countered the three temptations with scripture that exposed the devil's strategy.

Shame and guilt are powerless and lifeless things. Fear is a curse that binds and blinds us. But Jesus was victorious over these things so we can be free from them, both now and into a perfect eternity. He longs to help us know that freedom.

Ask Jesus to show you what you need to do to cooperate with Him, to declutter the things in your life that are not of God.

"Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish." **Eph 5:25-27 ESV.**

Interactive activity

Let it Go Moment

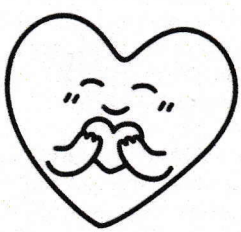
Monday
30 March, 2026
Clear the temple

Theme: Let God clean our hearts.

- Give everyone a piece of paper.
- Write or think about something that needs clearing out:
  - A habit
  - Attitude
  - Distraction
  - sin
- Pray silently (or together as a family)
- Tear up the paper or throw it in the bin and say: *"Jesus, clean my heart."*

Optional:

- Clean one small area of the house as a family, or on your own (desk, car, table, office, bedroom etc.) as a symbol of a heart reset.



Devotional

Getting Dressed with God

Tuesday
31 March, 2026
Real faith, real life

Written by Laurian Smith (Pr Jeanine's Sister)

I do wonder if sometimes we place God into the "spectacular" areas of our lives - the momentous things, the grand occasions, the desperate need, the tragic losses. We relegate God to Easter and Christmas, funerals, weddings, miracles and grand gestures, and forget to have Him be a part of our everyday.

Perhaps we think that doing the necessary things like getting dressed, showering, chores, jobs, school, hobbies; doesn't require the hand of a mighty God to be involved in it. However when the big things come around we acknowledge our need of Him.

Last year I received a direct challenge from the Lord - he said to me "when was the last time you got dressed with me?"

Now, I start my day with the Lord just about every day - some days the demands of the kids and my lack of sleep means that I sleep in - but get dressed with God? I don't know about you, but as a busy Mum I tend to just toss on what is easy and will get me through my many tasks - I don't have to prep for an office job or anything like that so my clothes are just what they are - functional. I had never particularly thought about consulting God with what to wear for my day.

Then he showed me Jeremiah 1:17a " But you, dress yourself for work; arise, and say to them everything that I command you." The 'get dressed' part is that phrase "gird up your loins" fundamentally - prepare for battle - surround yourself with what I tell you. I then felt in my spirit that he said "too often I see my children put on an undergarment of heaviness, worry, defeat, cares of this world" (like dressing ourselves with curses Psalm 109 : 17-19) and I immediately thought - then WE cover it up with all manner of things to make ourselves "beautiful" and enter the world unprepared for the battle ahead.

Getting dressed with God is preparing for the things we will face in our day - battles if you will - even the mundane. Start with His undergarment of truth, then put on His full armour (Ephesians 6:10-19), then put on the outer garment of praise and oil of joy as your perfume (Isaiah 61:3). Let Him be the one thing that you always put on - your signature fragrance, your iconic colour, your favourite jacket - let His truth be the thing that is the basis of all that you do in life even in the mundane aspects.

Prayer: Lord, today I remember that you are Lord of all the parts of my life. Teach me how to surround myself with your truth, to put on your full armour and let praise and joy be how people experience You through me. Amen

Interactive Activity

Intentional Acts

Tuesday
31 March, 2026
Real faith, real life

Theme: Living what we believe.

- Ask: *"If my faith was visible today, what would it look like?"*
- Choose one visible act of faith today:
  - Encourage someone
  - Help someone
  - forgive or apologise
  - Include someone
  - Give something
  - Pray with someone
  -

If you live with others:

- At night (or dinner table), share what you chose and how it went.

If you're on your own:

- Before bed, ask: *"Jesus, did my life reflect you today?"* End with a short prayer for growth.

Optional:

- Text someone encouragement

Devotional 1

The Feet of Good News

Written by Laurian Smith (Pr Jeanine's Sister)

Wednesday
1 April, 2026
Love that serves

One of my favourite parts of a communion day is foot washing. I was recently trying to explain this to a fellow Christian who did not have the Adventist experience and they were taken aback, if not dumb founded that there were people who still did this as a regular part of how they worship the Lord.

It is only commanded once - John 13:14
It is thought of highly in terms of service to one another - 1 Timothy 5:10; Luke 7:44
It was done to honour someone - 1 Samuel 25:41; Luke 7:44

But it is something that is so outside the realm of understanding in our modern world - "why would you do that?" Is the question I received accompanied by a face that clearly thought "gross".

Practically: it took the dust off a weary traveler's feet - it was a necessary hygiene practice; it was ceremonially required for priests to come into the presence of the Lord, it was part of their commissioning (Exodus 30:17-19); it honoured your guests; it honoured the people you served (Genesis 18:1-4).

The foot washing Jesus performed in the upper room was more than an act of service - it was a consecration and a passing on of His ministry to the disciples. The foot washing act that we do today should be more than an actual washing of feet, even though that is the example we are given because it is a "making beautiful" of the feet of us who bring His good news...

How an act of foot washing becomes an act of service in this modern world, is taking his good news to the places where our feet tread. Serving one another in that moment is an act of humility; of consecration and commissioning. It gives us the blessing to serve those who we then encounter no matter their station of life.

It reminds us to serve our family members, our co-workers, teachers and school mates, to serve the people in the supermarket, to serve the person who is driving too slowly, the serve the one who sits on the corner asking for money, to serve the kid who is rowdy and rude - because we are called to be the beautiful feet of the Gospel - washed clean and commissioned to take it wherever we go.

"How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!" **Isaiah 52:7 NIV**

Prayer: Lord, thank you for the example you set of washing each other's feet. Show me how I can put this into practice in my world. Show me the people who need to experience your beautiful gospel. Commission my feet again to go where you lead and to follow with all of my heart. Amen

Devotional 2

Known by Love

Wednesday
1 April, 2026
Love that serves

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." **John 13:34-35**

As disciples of Jesus we are called to love others and to be the good change in their lives just as other people have been in our own lives. Jesus was the very definition of love in the way he ministered throughout his time on earth. Isaiah 61:1 *"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;"*. Jesus looked after the down trodden, those who were forgotten and people who had heavy burdens. He gave them love and a place to belong showing them his true nature of God and just how far he would go to accept us into his family.

This can be clearly shown in the story of the woman who was bleed for 12 long years. She suffered greatly in that time being directed from one doctor to the next spending all she had. Being scorned by all people around her having to call out unclean anytime she got near someone else. When Jesus healed her he not only loved her and treated her as a human being He incorporated her into his family. Mark 5:34 " He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.""

This is how we are to be known through our community not by just helping people and being friendly to all but that we love each other and everyone we come in contact with. Jesus did many acts of service showing how he loved the people around him by not only healing and meeting their physical needs but he met people where they were at. He ultimately gave his life for us because he loved us more than he loved himself. John 3:16-17 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." This is the kind of love that will set us apart from everyone else in this world that is devoid of genuineness and real love.

May we aim to live for God by loving others as just as we have also received from God ourselves, as we aim to walk humbly following our Lord's example he left for us.

Micah 6:8 *"He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."*

Interactive activity

The Secret Service

Wednesday
1 April, 2026
Love that Serves

Theme: Serve like Jesus.

- Put all your names into a hat, or each person chooses someone to secretly serve today.

- Examples:
  - Do a chore
  - leave an encouraging note
  - Buy someone a snack
  - pray for them
  - help without announcing it
  - send an uplifting message
  - do a random act of kindness

Reflect on it: How did serving feel?

Pray: *"Jesus, make me more like you."*

Journeying with Jesus is like a puzzle

Thursday
2 April, 2026
Stay Close to Jesus

Written by Karen Schofield

Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.
Philippians 1:6 NKJV

Life is like a puzzle where the map showing what the final masterpiece is going to look like is missing. So many times, we struggle to see how all the pieces of our life connect together. We wonder and we question God, "how can you make something beautiful out of the broken pieces of our lives?"

Many times, I have asked God why, what, how, and when. Why did this happen to me? What is the purpose of this trial? How are You going to make something beautiful from this mess? When are You going to say enough is enough and come to my rescue.

God has shown me that in His time, He will make all things beautiful. He gave me a beautiful image of Him as a sculptor shaping me into a beautiful swan. He told me that He was slowly removing the layers of pain and hurt so as not to damage me any further. He is making me into His own beautiful masterpiece.

While the foundation of my walk with Jesus stems back to childhood, where I was first introduced to Him and had the opportunity to memorize a lot of Scripture, it has been through FAST Missions that God has reminded me of the importance of hiding His Word in my heart and has brought revival to my life. Since I have been a part of FAST, He has filled me with more peace, He has revitalized my devotional life and my prayer life. He has shown me that His plan and purpose for me is to comfort others as He has comforted me by writing and sharing Love Letters from Jesus.

He has taught me to thank Him for my trials and my weaknesses, for without them He wouldn't be able to shine so brightly through me. Paul writes in II Corinthians 12:9, "And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Mostly gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

Prayer: Heavenly Father, I ask that You will continue the good work You have begun in us. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit. Bring about the daily revival in our lives that we need to be able to stand in these last days and be ready to meet Jesus. In Jesus' Name Amen

Devotional 2

God Sees my Tears

Written by Hannah Rodrigues (age 11)

Thursday
2 April, 2026
Stay Close to Jesus

Come close to God, and God will come close to you
James 4:8 NLT

Sometimes life can feel really scary.
I remember a time when my dog had just experienced epilepsy. It was terrifying. I couldn't stop thinking, What if he doesn't make it? Is he okay? That night, I couldn't sleep. My mind was full of fear and worry.

But in that moment, I decided to pray. After praying, I opened my bible, and it landed on a verse in 2 Kings 20:5 that says, "I have heard your prayers, I have seen your tears, behold, I will hear you..." I was so excited and uplifted knowing that God did care.

James 4:8 says that when we come close to God, He comes close to us. That means we're never alone. Especially in our hardest and scariest moments.

But it also reminds us that we can't be divided - trying to follow God and the world at the same time. When we choose God fully, we experience His closeness in a real and powerful way.

No matter how far away we feel, God always wants to be close to us.

Because of this, I want to remember God as my Saviour and not be afraid to share his word with others.

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, Thank you for never forgetting me and for always being there. Please help me to stay close to You every day. Amen.

Interactive activity

10 minutes with Jesus

Thursday
2 April, 2026
Stay Close to Jesus

Theme: Abide and Remember

- Set aside 10 intentional minutes (5 mins for smaller kids) to spend time with Jesus. At the close of your time, say: *"Jesus, help us to stay close to You."*

Options:

- Sit quietly with God
- journal your prayers
- read a gospel story
- listen to worship songs
- go for a prayer walk in nature
- pray honestly
- Draw, paint and create
- Light a candle at dinner or worship time and read a bible story together as a family

Devotional 1

Love that Gave Everything

Written by Steve Kane

Friday
3 April, 2026
Love Gave Everything

"There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends."
John 15:13

17 "The Father loves me because I sacrifice my life so I may take it back again. 18 No one can take my life from me. I sacrifice it voluntarily. For I have the authority to lay it down when I want to and also to take it up again. For this is what my Father has commanded."
John 10:17–18

I've made sacrifices—many of them. No doubt you have too: sacrifices of time, effort, money, and moments when we've gone out of our way to help others. Yet none of these compare to the sacrifices made by those who gave their lives in war, hoping to secure peace.

Long before human conflict, there was another battle. Sin entered the universe when war broke out in heaven, and that same rebellion spilled onto earth. Deception led to disobedience, and disobedience brought death. But thank God, there was a plan—Operation S!

Operation Salvation. God's perfect plan: that His Son, Jesus, would lay down His life for His beloved creation—you and me—as a pure sacrifice for our sin. He did it willingly, allowing Himself to suffer and die, only to rise again in victory. That Friday and Sabbath at the cross may have looked like defeat, but the world didn't realize that Sunday was coming. What appeared to be loss was, in truth, a decisive and eternal victory.

Jesus didn't come merely to keep the peace. He came as the Prince of Peace, restoring humanity through the ultimate sacrifice.

Think it Through: How does His sacrifice shape the way you see your own worth—and how you live for the King and His Kingdom?

Prayer: Our Father in Heaven, thank you for the sacrifice of Jesus and for your unlimited love for me. Thank you for saving me from sin and providing me eternal life. I'm beyond grateful and full of hope for all that lies ahead. Continue to fill me Lord with your peace today and grant me the courage to share the good news of salvation with others this easter and whenever you open an opportunity for me throughout the year.

Love that Set me Free

Friday
3 April, 2026

Written by Mabel Jaques (age 11)

Love Gave Everything

"But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners."
Romans 5:8

God's love isn't something we have to earn—it's something He has already given.

Romans 5:8 shows us just how deep that love is. Even when we were still sinners, Jesus chose to die for us. That means His love came first. He didn't wait for us to be perfect—He loved us at our worst.

Because of Jesus' sacrifice, we can be forgiven and set free. He gave His life so that we could have a new one.

I've experienced that love personally. At a summer camp, we sang a song called "I Surrender," and in that moment, I felt so close to God. It was there that I chose to be baptized—because I knew Jesus loved me.

Even in everyday life, when I feel down or when others are unkind, I can remember that God's love for me never changes. His love is always there, and it gives me strength.

Because of Jesus' love, I want to stand up for people who are bullied or treated badly and show them the same love He has shown me.

Prayer: Dear God, Please help me to stand up and have courage for others. Help me to share Your love wherever I go.
Amen.

Interactive activity

Gratitude

Friday
3 April, 2026
Love Gave Everything

Theme: Jesus on the cross

- Give each person a moment to reflect: "Because of Jesus' sacrifice...
- Write one sentence finishing: "Jesus thank you for..." Stick this somewhere on a wall or fridge as a reminder.

If at home tonight:
Hold a piece of bread or simply pause in prayer. Thank Jesus for what he did on the cross.

If attending the Agape Feast at church (6:30pm)
Carry this gratitude into the meal, pray about having courage to share with the church family something that blessed you this week during the fasting, praying or devotional times.

Devotional 1

A Hope that Holds

Written by Renee Hoskins

Sabbath
4 April, 2026
Hope Lives

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer."
Romans 12:12

What is hope?
In a season where I felt planted, pruned, and broken, I wrestled with one question: How do I have joy in the middle of heartbreak? James 1:2–3 tells us to consider it joy when we face trials—but I didn't understand how that was possible.

One moment stands out clearly. I was crying out to God, heart aching, tears falling, and yet I found myself saying, "I have joy, Abba!"—I believe we both laughed in that very moment, Father and daughter, at the irony of it all.
As I sat planted, pruned, broken and seeking, the Holy Spirit revealed to me that joy is found in hope.

Hope isn't a "maybe." It is a deep confidence in God—anchored in who He is. When you have hope, you have joy. You cannot separate the two.
Even in quiet, uncertain seasons, we are called to fight for that hope—taking every thought captive and holding onto the truth of God's Word.
Sometimes we won't see His hand—but we can always trust His heart.

After Jesus' death, the disciples were scattered and hopeless. But Mary Magdalene stayed. In her grief and confusion, she didn't leave—she lingered. She hoped in the One who had changed her life. And then... Jesus called her name. "Mary." He called her name! In that moment, her sorrow turned to joy. Her hope had a face—her risen Saviour.

Will you linger? In the waiting, in the silence, in the unknown—stay. Seek Him. Hope in Him. Because hope in Jesus is never wasted.

Prayer: Father, Thank You that Your mercy is new every morning and Your love never fails. Help me to hold onto hope, even in uncertainty. Teach me to linger in Your presence and trust Your heart. Fill me with joy and peace as I place my hope in You. Amen

Devotional 1

Where are You God?

Written by Caroline Andrews

Sabbath
4 April, 2026
Hope Lives

"For the vision is yet for the appointed future time. It hurries toward the goal of fulfilment; it will not fail. Even though it delays, wait patiently for it, because it will certainly come; it will not delay."
Habakkuk 2:3 AMP.

I cannot think of a "hero of the Bible" who did not have to endure a time of testing that included waiting for God to fulfill a promise. For example, consider the time of testing for people like Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, and Jeremiah.

Facing challenges is the universal human experience. How we choose to deal with those issues is where things go off the rails. Let's consider one of the greatest tests the disciples faced. What hope was there for the disciples on that Sabbath where Jesus lay in the tomb, the darkest Sabbath in all of human history?

In terror and confusion they hid to avoid death. Weeks earlier, when Jesus had mentioned that He was going to Jerusalem and would be killed, Peter's human response was to scold Jesus with, "Far be it from you, Lord!" Matt 16:21. Every attempt Jesus made to prepare them was glossed over or rejected. They were anticipating a glorious triumph over the Romans and Jesus becoming king of Israel. O, what horror awaited them!

There are those who seem to think that God is heartless in His dealings with humanity. Perhaps, in a world view where human happiness is central, that argument is valid. But if we zoom out from the struggles of this world and take a "God's-eye-view" we can perceive that God makes allowance for our struggles for the sake of a greater, eternal purpose.

The trauma they experienced was anticipated and factored into every Divinely ordained event. And so was the glory of the resurrection. The joy that they experienced in seeing their risen Lord is something we can only faintly imagine.

If God leads us through trial, it is for His glory and our eternal benefit. Our day-to-day trials are for us to learn by experience that God IS good and faithful to His word. There is purpose in the pain of this world, and knowing that gives joy for the journey, and hope that shines brightly in dark times where all we can do is hold onto His promise.

Interactive activity

Speak Hope

Sabbath
4 April, 2026
Hope Lives

Theme: Living with hope

Ask yourself/family:
(If you have children, talk about the meaning of hope first)

- Where do I need hope right now?
- Who needs hope around me?

Choose one or two things to do:

- Pray for that situation
- Message someone encouragement
- Read a hop-filled bible promise aloud
- Create an art using your favourite hope-filled bible verse
- Write a short prayer of trust.

If with others:
Each person says, "Because of Jesus, I have hope for..."

If alone:
Speak this aloud:
"Because of Jesus, my story is not finished."

End with a prayer of hope.

Hope filled bible promises you could read:

Isaiah 40:31
Psalm 3:3
Psalm 46:1
Micah 7:7
Psalm 91:1, 11
Psalm 119:114
Deuteronomy 31:6
Hebrews 6:18-19
Psalm 23:4
Psalm 121:7-8
Lamentations 3:22-24
Psalm 10:17
Isaiah 43:2
Philippians 4:12
Matthew 11:28-30
1 Corinthians 13:7
Zephaniah 3:17
2 Timothy 3:17
Romans 8:38-39
Isaiah 55:8-9
Philippians 1:6
Jeremiah 29:11
Revelation 21:4
2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Devotional

God's Doing a New Thing

Sunday
5 April, 2026
New Life

Written by Karen Schofield

Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.
Isaiah 43:19

It was January 26, 2005—the day I experienced one of the greatest losses of my life. I lost my fiancé, the one who had introduced me to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. I stood at a crossroads. Would I choose life or death? Truth or lies? The narrow road or the broad road? Would I embrace the truths I had been learning—or turn away from God and say, "Look what You did?" Would I compromise and go back to what was comfortable. I was sinking. Desperate. I didn't know who to trust. I didn't even know if I could trust God anymore. What made the difference was love.

My church family surrounded me, and a new pastor came to the funeral—not because he knew us, but because he cared. In that moment, I felt impressed to ask him where I could find help. Looking back, I know it was the Holy Spirit leading me.

Through his guidance, I connected with a ministry and spent a week in intensive prayer counseling. Each day I was guided through prayer and reflection. Each night—and even in the middle of the night—I journaled, pouring out my heart to God like never before. In that place of surrender, God began to heal me.
I learned to surrender everything. I learned to forgive myself. I learned to forgive others. I even learned to forgive God for what I had believed were wrongs against me. God made me new.

On May 7, 2005, I chose to follow Jesus—no matter the cost. Even if others didn't understand. Even if I stood alone. At my baptism, we sang: "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus." *Though none go with me, still I will follow.*
That became my life's theme.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, Thank You for giving me beauty for ashes, joy for mourning, and praise instead of heaviness. Thank You for setting me free. Please continue to work in my life and in the lives of all who read this.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

Interactive activity

Step into life

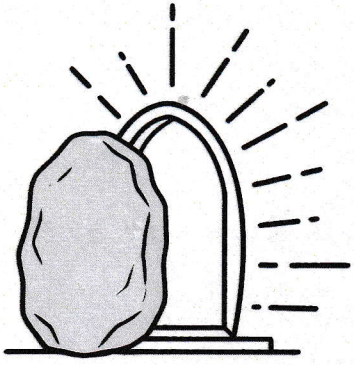
Sunday
5 April, 2026
New Life

Theme: Because Jesus lives, I live differently

Stand in a circle, if with your family, or just stand still and close your eyes for a moment.

Then one at a time, take a step forward and pray:
"Jesus because You live, I step into a new life."

Optional:
Buy a new plant (indoor or outdoor) or some seedlings and plant it somewhere. Watch it grow as a family. This can be your reminder of this week. As you take care of this plant and watch it grow, be reminded of the life Jesus has gifted you because of what he did on the cross and resurrection!



Make Room

This week, you made room. You slowed down. You prayed. You let go. You listened. You remembered. You stood at the cross. You held onto hope.

But this was never meant to be just a week. Jesus is not looking for a moment—He is inviting you into a life with Him.

Pause and reflect:

- What has Jesus been showing me this week?
- What is one thing I need to keep doing?
- What is one thing I need to let go of?
- Where is Jesus inviting me deeper?

Sit with it. Be honest.

Your next step (individually or as a family):

Following Jesus is not about doing everything at once—it's about saying yes to the next step.

□ I/we will spend time with Jesus daily
□ I/we will keep praying about _____
□ I/we will let go of _____
□ I/we will step out and serve _____
□ I/we want to learn more about following Jesus
□ I/we want to give my life fully to Jesus

A simple prayer:

Jesus, Thank You for meeting me this week. Thank You for the cross. Thank You for new life. Today, I choose to make room for You—not just for a moment, but in my everyday life. Lead me. Change me. Use me. Amen.

As a church family, you are not alone.
Keep walking with others.
Keep sharing your story.
Keep making room.

Because of Jesus, your story is not finished.

Make
Room
Seventh-day
Adventist Church
Gold Coast Central